

Agents for Distributed Team Operations

Demonstration

September 2003



Agents for Distributed Team Operations

- Objective: Demonstrate the use of heterogeneous agents to support manned space operations
- Approach: Integrate agents from existing HCC projects in a representative operational scenario
 - Information Management Agents: create, update and distribute operational artifacts (HCAAST Project)
 - Liaison Agents: notify the user of important events based on user location & role, and manage the user's schedule (DCI Project)
 - Autonomous Control Agents: reduce operational workload by automating routine operations (HCAAST, DCI)
- Sponsor: M. Shafto, Intelligent Systems Program
- Project Coordination:
 - ADTO: Charles Pitman, Lui Wang
 - HCAAST/SMART: Jane Malin, Kathy Johnson
 - DCI: Debra Schreckenghost,
- Technical Staff
 - ADTO: Bob Phillps, Mark Guarra
 - HCAAST: Arthur Molin, Pat Oliver,
 - DCI: Pete Bonasso, Richard Day, Cheryl Martin, Tod Milam



HCAAST Project

- Objective: Assist humans in managing information and communication in support of both nominal and off-nominal operations
- Approach: Provide agents working with teamwork tool suite to support distributed teams
 - Provide information management agents for each flight control discipline
 - HCAAST Information Managements Agents are called Intelligent Briefing and Response Assistant (IBRA) Agents
 - An IBRA agent serves a flight discipline by monitoring for important events and taking actions when these events occur (e.g., log, report)
 - Develop web-based support tools used by both humans & agents
 - WorkIT: manages actions and documents in workspace associated with situation
 - Logger: stores notices and events In a database
 - ReportMaker: builds reports based on logged entries
- Sponsor: M. Shafto, Intelligent Systems Program
- Principal Investigator: Jane Malin

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SMART Project

- Objective: Assist Flight Surgeons in managing information during flight operations
- Approach:
 - Develop a prototype of next generation human centered intelligent flight surgeon console; collaboration with HCAAST project includes
 - WorkIT
 - Logger
 - Develop a methodology for providing systematic principles, guidelines, and procedures for the design of highly-efficient distributed human-computer systems
 - HCDID Human Centered Distributed Information Design
- Sponsor: M. Shafto, Intelligent Systems Program
- Principal Investigator: Jiajie Zhang



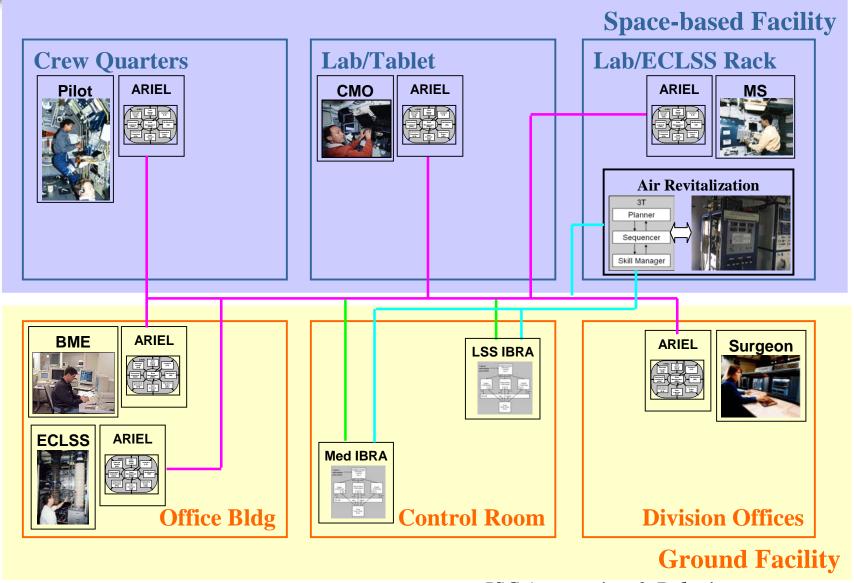
DCI Project

- Objective: Aid users in working with Automated Control Agents and with Other People to perform tasks for assigned operational roles
- Approach: Provide Distributed Collaboration and Interaction (DCI) Environment to facilitate interaction within human-agent group
 - Personal liaison agents for each human in organization
 - DCI Liaison Agents are called Attentive Remote Interaction and Execution Liaison (ARIEL) Agents
 - An ARIEL agent serves a single user by providing services to help achieve group goals according to group policies and protocols
 - Key Features of DCI
 - Event Notification based on user role and location
 - Task Management with automatic schedule updates
 - Location Tracking
 - Situation Summarization
 - Command Authorization
- Sponsor: M. Shafto, Intelligent Systems Program
- Principal Investigator: D. Schreckenghost

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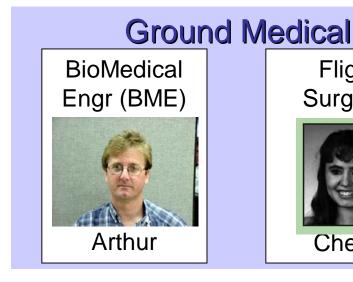


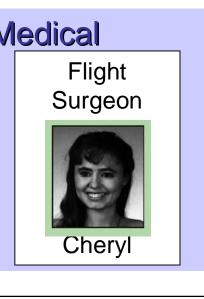
Human Team in Demo













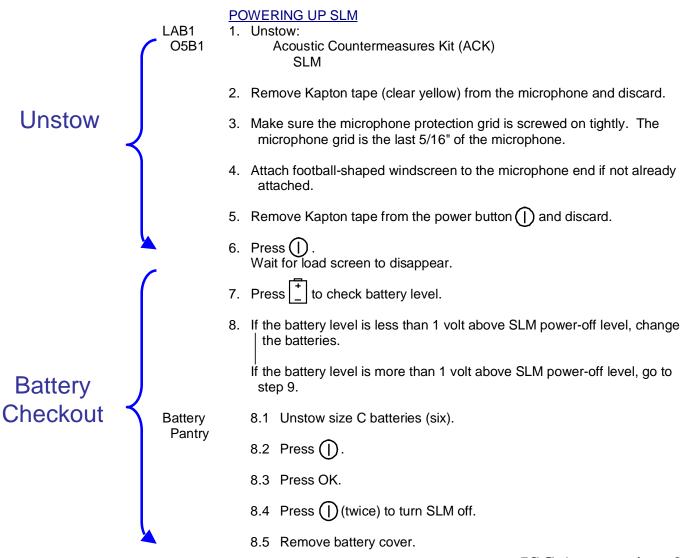




- Nominal Ops: Crew and ground are aided by their agents in performing routine, periodic checking of life support systems (under autonomous control) and medical equipment
- II. Anticipated Off-nominal Medical Ops: Problem of inhalation injury to a crew member, leading to compromised lung function. Agents assist crew and ground coordination to assess and resolve the problem, using established procedures.
- III. Anticipated Off-nominal Ops: Problem arises in CO₂ removal system with potential crew impacts and/or degraded performance. Control agent performs routine fault management and support agents help humans in resolving problem.
- IV. Unanticipated Off-Nominal Ops: Events II and III interact to create a new problem. Rising CO₂ combined with compromised lung function requires novel problem solving by Flight Surgeon assisted by agents.



SLM Procedure – Power Up Task





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OPS Concept Demonstrated

- Supervisory monitoring
 - Departing from vigilant monitoring by humans requires ability to
 - Focus users attention when something important happens
 - Provide remote access to summaries of events after they occur
 - Approach: use ARIEL notification to draw users attention to events and notices provided by web-based Team Work Center
- Humans and agents working together
 - Human-agent teams must reason about the same information
 - Approach: provide information management tools that can be manipulated by both humans and software agents
- Team coordination based on centralized activity management
 - Ensure duties are accomplished and schedules are revised in face of contingencies, human unavailability, failures, flight rules changes, etc.
 - Approach: provide centralized planning of user schedules in DCI, activity tracking within ARIEL agent, and procedure support
- Team coordination based on awareness of others
 - Distributing operations requires support for coordinating actions with other team members
 - Approach: make roles, activities, and location of other team members visible within ARIEL agent
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Requirements: Human Support Agents

Crew



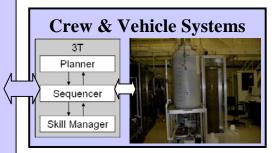
Flt Controllers

Accommodate differences between humans and autonomous control agents

Avoid overloading autonomous agents with support specific to human tasks

Agent Environment

- Translate between human mental models and software implementation models
- Represent the interests of a person fulfilling an operations role
 - Detect and notify about information changes affecting the job without unnecessary distraction
 - Log, search, and summarize important events
 - Assist discovery of patterns in information for engineering & operations analysis
 - Coordinate activities among the group to ensure fair allocation of resources and responsibility
 - Assist task interleaving & handling interruptions
 - Automate routine subtasks to reduce human workload
- Aid compliance with organizational protocols and policies to ensure job gets done right
 - Provide consistent notification for all humans fulfilling a role
 - Dynamically reassign human tasks to ensure contingencies are handled
 - Adjust autonomy for concurrent manual and automated commanding to prevent command conflicts



Engineers

